

Parsons Nursery, Manager's Residence
South side of U.S. Route 219, .25 miles
southeast of Parsons
Parsons Vicinity
Tucker County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-237-E

HABS
WVA
47-PARS.V,
1E-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

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1E-

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PARSONS NURSERY, Manager's Residence

Location: South side of U. S. Route 219, .25 miles east
of Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia

USGS Parsons Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.614350.4327630

Present Owner: Monongahela National Forest
Department of Agriculture
Sycamore Street, Box 1548
Elkins, WV 26241

Last Occupant: Department of Natural Resources
State of West Virginia

Use: Parsons Nursery manager's residence; vacant.

Significance: The manager's residence was built in 1934 as
a part of the Parsons Nursery of the
Monongahela National Forest. It was the home
of four successive nursery managers who
operated the nursery for the Forest Service
and the West Virginia Department of Natural
Resources. For overview of Parsons Nursery
see HABS No. WV-237.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1934, derived from the construction drawings dated November, 1933, and completion photograph date November, 1934 (drawings WV-237-E-7, WV-237-E-8, WV-237-9 and photograph WV-237-E-5).
2. Architect: Neither architect nor landscape architect are known.
3. Original and present owner: Monongahela National Forest.
4. Builder: The manager's residence was constructed for Monongahela National Forest by contract labor, according to John King.
5. Original Plans: An incomplete set of three blue prints for the original construction are housed at the Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins, WV.
6. Alterations and additions: The kitchen/dining room doorway has been widened; the kitchen furnishings and bathroom furnishings have been up-dated.

B. Historical Context:

From the opening of the Parson Nursery in 1928 until the construction of this residence in 1934, the nursery manager lived in Parsons. This was the residence of the nursery manager from 1934 until the nursery was closed in late 1985.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The nursery manager's residence is one of a complex of Forest Service nursery buildings. It differs from the others in not being shingled, but is a simple, bungalow style. The interior has a rustic design with rough plaster and chestnut trim. This building includes native materials available from Monongahela National Forest, such as chestnut framing, sub-floors and sheathing. Only manufactured details, such as doors and windows are not of native materials.
2. Condition of fabric: Good. Flood damage is minimal.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: A one-and-one-half story, rectangular plan, this building is 32'-3" x 36'-2" with an 8'-8" front porch. It has three bays across the front and three bays on each side.
2. Foundation: 8" concrete block full basement. The three exposed courses of block are rusticated.
3. Walls: Exterior walls are white-painted wood clapboard with 5-3/4" exposure. The 5" corner boards have an added 1/2" bead on the siding edge.
4. Structural system: The wood frame walls are "2x4's", on 16" centers, covered in "1x6" thick diagonal sheathing boards--a typical West Virginia mountain framing system. The "2x10" joists have "1x6" sub-flooring, rafters are "2x6's", both on 16" centers. All framing, sub-flooring, and sheathing is chestnut.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The front porch has four massive, tapered, wooden piers on red, wire-cut brick bases supporting arched porch headers. The porch balustrade is 2'-3" tall, of square, 1-1/2" wooden balusters. The porch is clapboard-sided between soffit and header. The porch ceiling is 3-1/2" double beaded boards; flooring of tongue-and-groove 2-1/4" pine. Porch overhang is 28" without fascia, of "2x6" exposed, clipped rafters on 24" centers. Porch height is 7'-5". The rear door hood was removed by flood. It had a gable roof.
6. Chimneys: One interior chimney, 1'-8" square, of wire-cut red brick with 4" poured concrete cap.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Front and rear doorways have plain, 4" board architrave with butt-jointed head. The front doorway also has a 2" ogee cap molding. Door height is 6'-8". The pine front and rear doors have six lights over three molded and raised horizontal panels. Doorways are painted white; the front door is varnished. The varnished, pine, front screen door has a single-screen panel.
 - b. Windows and shutters: All original windows are similar with 5" jambs and heads, butt-jointed with the same cap molding as front doorway; 6/1 double hung sash with 3/4" cyma reversa mutin bars. The three-part bay in the dining room has 4/1 sash.

First and second floor windows are 4'-11" tall and vary in width, except for the smaller kitchen and bath windows. Sash and trim is painted white. There never have been shutters.

8. Roof: The gable bungalow roof has asphalt shingles and a galvanized, 2" beaded ridge cap. The 2'-3" overhang has a plain, boxed cornice with five brackets on each gable end and three brackets on each dormers. The rake boards are "1x8's". The wooden, rectangular gutters survive on front and rear (see WV-237-J-3).

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The rectangular building has a basement with three rooms across the front and a food cellar on the east wall. The first floor has a living room, dining room and kitchen, each behind the other, on the east. On the west is a front and back bedroom with bath between. The second floor has a bedroom on each side of the hall. The basement ceiling is 8'-0"; the first floor ceiling is 9'-0"; the second floor and attic ceiling is 8'-0".
2. Stairways: The stairs have chestnut treads and risers, chestnut balustrade of 1-1/4" square balusters and 5" square posts. The four steps to the back door entry and the basement stairs are pine.
3. Flooring: The basement floor is poured concrete. Most first and second story floors are 2-1/2" tongue-and-groove oak, varnished finish with 8" chestnut baseboard with 1-1/2" bevelled top and quarter round shoe molding. The kitchen and bath have modern vinyl flooring. The center, front attic room has yellow pine flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Interior finishes and opening treatments are designed to be rustic, using rough plaster and native lumber trim. Both walls and ceiling are rough finish plaster on sawn lath. There is a plastered elliptical arch between the living room and dining room. The bathroom has modern ceramic tile. The center, attic room has knotty pine panelling on walls and ceiling.
5. Openings: Both door and window jambs are the same: 4" jambs and head, butt-jointed with 3/4" low-relief, varnished chestnut, trim molding, varnished chestnut in living room, dining room, upper and lower halls; painted in bedroom, bath and kitchen.
 - a. Doors: All interior doors are cherry stained and varnished pine with two molded panels.

- b. Windows: All sash is unpainted pine.
- 6. Decorative features and trim: None.
- 7. Hardware: Front and rear doors have three brass-plated iron butt hinges with top and bottom ball pins, beveled knob plate with hollow, round knob. Each interior door has two brass-plated iron butt hinges with top and bottom ball pins and plain, beveled brass-plated knob plate and hollow, round knob. Second story closets have plain brass-plated iron spring bolts. All sash have brass-plated thumb locks.
- 8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heat: Originally provided by a coal-fired, forced air furnace. Heating system does not work.
 - b. Lighting: Original cast, metal, flush-mounted ceiling lights with raised flowers and scrolls using two bare bulbs are in the four bedrooms and upper hall. Electricity is disconnected.
 - c. Plumbing: Both kitchen and bath have modern plumbing that is disconnected.
- 9. Original furnishings: None.
- D. Site:
 - 1. General setting and orientation: The building faces northwest $327^{\circ}30'$. The flat site is surrounded by agricultural fields and other original nursery structures (see contemporary photograph WV-237-6, historic photograph WV-237-E-6).
 - 2. Historic landscape design: A flagstone walk with mortar joints extends from the front porch to the side driveway. A deciduous hedge 28' east of the house includes historic syringa (*Philadelphus caronarius*), lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) and redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). Along the nursery lane, near the driveway, 50' west of the house, is a black locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*); 60' west is a black walnut (*Juglans nigra*).
 - 3. Outbuildings: The garage has been demolished, but the 20' x 20', 4" high concrete foundation survives 14' west and behind the house.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

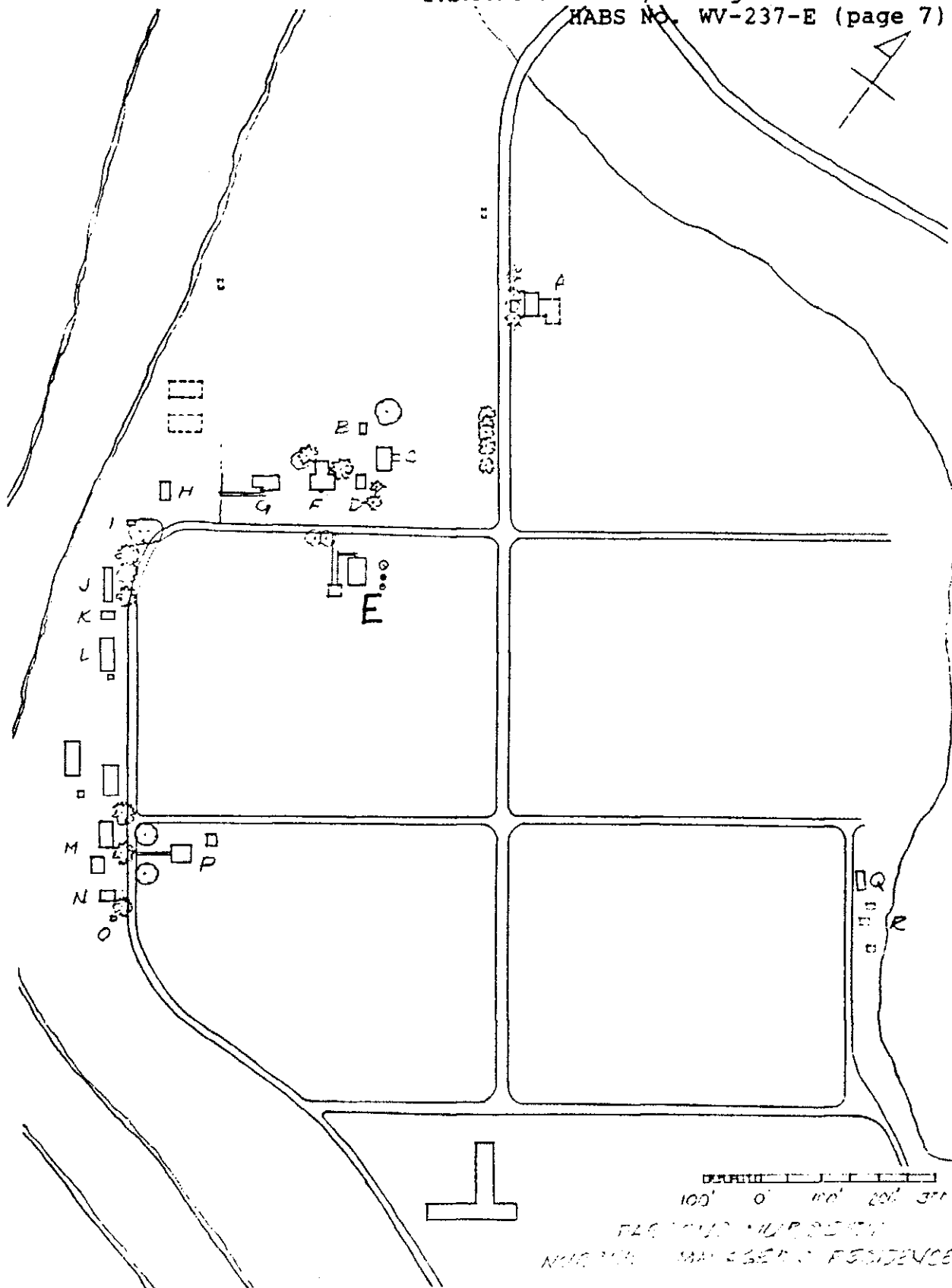
- A. Architectural drawings: three sheets, dated November 1933, are located at Monongahela National Forest Offices, Elkins, WV.
- B. Historic views: Forest Service photographs, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV.
- C. Interviews: Al Allison, 7-23-1989, Charleston, WV, Parsons Nursery supervisor, 1952-57; Londa Bennett, 6-11-1989, Davis, WV, Parsons Nursery employee, 1930-1939; John King, 8-5-1989, Wanakena, NY, silviculture supervisor, CCC Camp Parsons, 1933-39.
- D. McKim, C. R., Monongahela National Forest History, unpublished manuscript, November, 1970.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

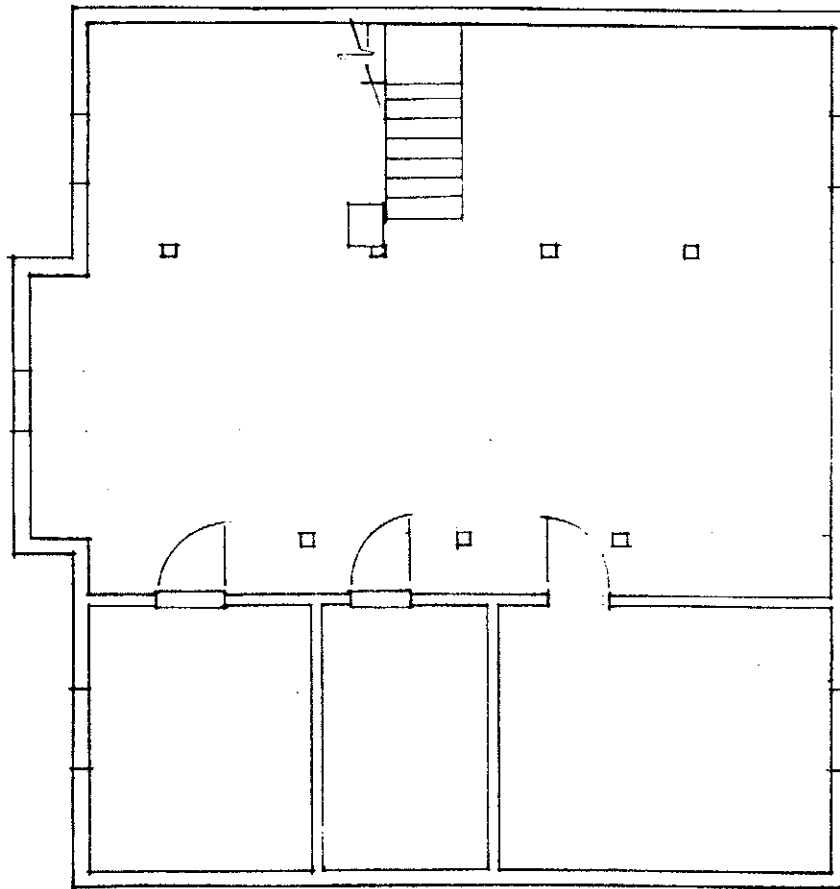
The architectural and historical documentation of the Parsons Nursery Bottom site has been undertaken to fulfill a memorandum of agreement signed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the West Virginia SHPO and the USDA Forest Service as part of requirements under regulation 36 CFR 800 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Recording has taken place prior to substantial modification and/or removal of structures damaged by a flood in November, 1985.

This documentation has been prepared by: Rebecca M. Rogers, Preservation Consultant, 44 Audubon Road, Youngstown, Ohio, under contract to Monongahela National Forest, April-November, 1989.

PARSONS NURSERY, Manager's Residence
HABS NO. WV-237-E (page 7)

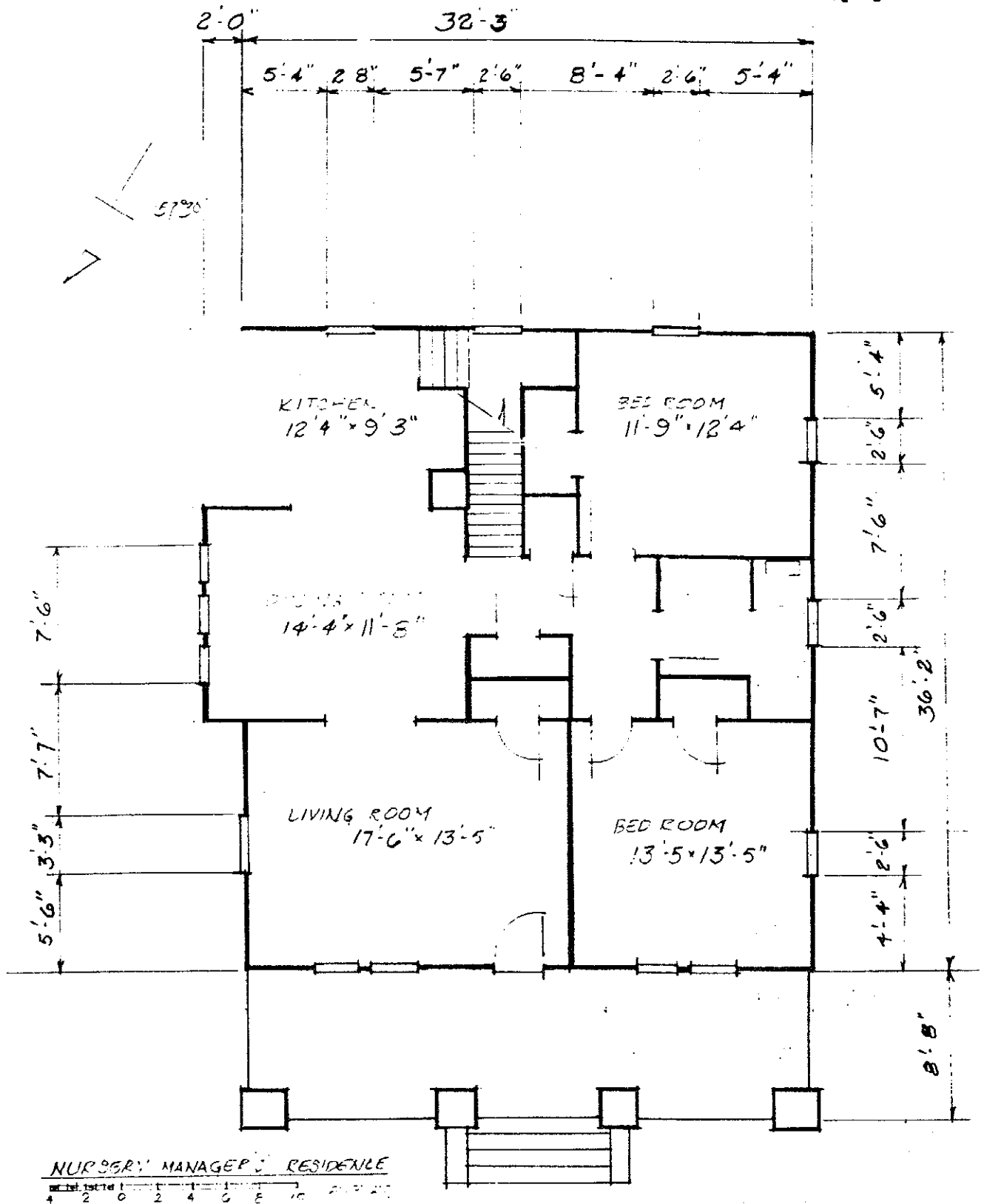


PARSONS NURSERY, Manager's Residence
HABS No. WV-237-E (page 8)



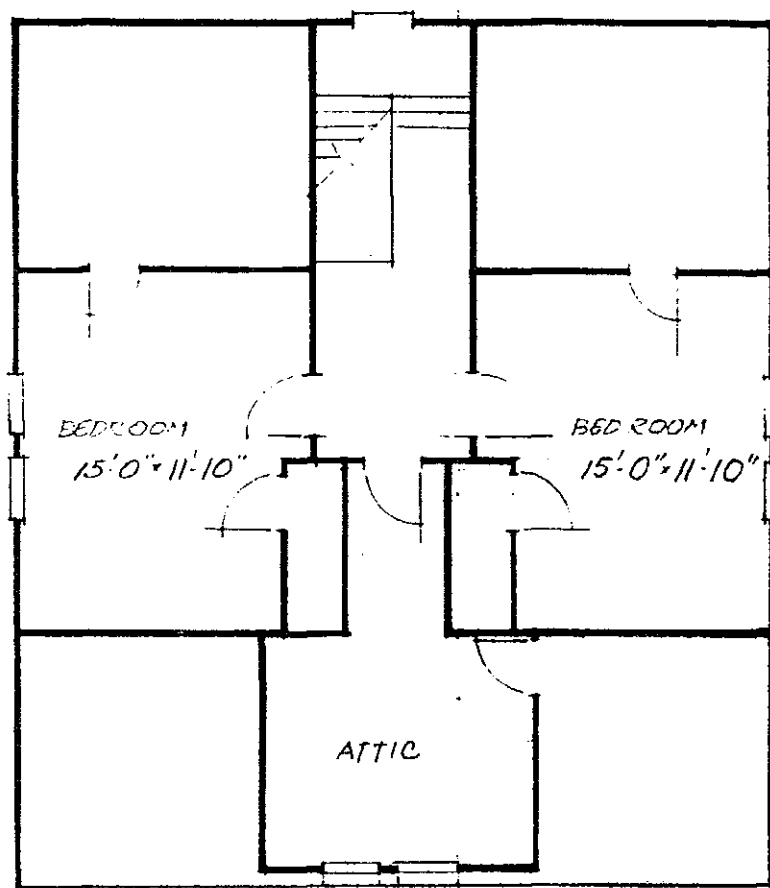
NURSERY, MANAGER'S RESIDENCE - ELEVATION
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PARSONS NURSERY, Manager's Residence
HABS No. WV-237-E (page 9)



PARSONS NURSERY, Manager's Residence
HABS No. WV-237-E (page 10)

57° 30'



NURSERY MANAGER'S RESIDENCE 2ND FLOOR

2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5

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